

REMARKS

The present Amendment cancels claims 17 and 21-31 and leaves claims 1-8, 11, 15, 16, 18 and 19 unchanged. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-8, 11, 15, 16, 18 and 19.

Claims 17 and 21-31 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Oomori (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0003306) in view of Mizuno (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,891), Penny (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0199515) and the article entitled ("Adaptec FS4500 Fibre to SATA RAID"); and claims 1-8, 11-14 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Oomori in view of Mizuno, Penny and Fujie (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0110330). As indicated above, claims 17 and 21-31 were canceled. Therefore, this rejection is rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It should be noted that the cancellation of claims 17 and 21-31 was not intended nor should it be considered as an agreement on Applicants part that the features recited in claims 17 and 21-31 are taught or suggested by any of the references of record whether said references are taken individually or in combination with each other. The cancellation of claims 17 and 21-31 was simply intended to expedite prosecution of the present application. Applicants hereby reserve their right to pursue the subject matter as set forth in claims 17 and 21-31 in a continuing application.

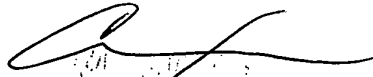
Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication in the Office Action that claims 1-8, 11, 15, 16, 18 and 19 are allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 1-8, 11, 15, 16, 18 and 19 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1-8, 11, 15, 16, 18 and 19 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (1309.43669X00).

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.



Carl I. Brundidge
Registration No. 29,621

CIB/jdc
(703) 684-1120